This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A method for the elimination of spurious signal components ~~(SS)~~ in an input signal ~~(ES)~~, said method ~~consisting of~~ comprising the steps of:

- the characterization, in a signal analysis phase ~~(I)~~, of signal components of the spurious signal components ~~(SS)~~ and of an information signal ~~(NS)~~ contained in the input signal ~~(ES)~~, and
- the determination or generation, in a signal processing phase ~~(II)~~, of the information signal ~~(NS)~~ or an estimated information signal ~~(NS')~~ on the basis of the characterization obtained in the signal analysis phase ~~(I)~~, wherein

said characterization of the signal components ~~(SS, NS)~~ ~~being~~ are performed under utilization at least of auditory-based features ~~(M1 to Mj)~~ determined in the signal analysis phase, employing a primitive-grouping method.

2. (currently amended) The method as in claim 1, wherein at least one of the following auditory features ~~(M1 to Mj)~~ are used for the characterization of the signal components ~~(NS, SS)~~: loudness, spectral profile, harmonic structure, common build-up and decay times, coherent amplitude and frequency modulation, coherent phases, interaural runtime and level differences.

3. (currently amended) The method as in claim 1, wherein the auditory features ~~(M1 to Mj)~~ are determined in a plurality of ~~different~~ frequency bands that are different from each other.

4. (canceled).

5. (currently amended) The method as in claim 1, wherein the characterization of the signal components ~~(SS, NS)~~ is performed by evaluating the features ~~(M1 to Mj)~~ determined in the signal analysis phase ~~(I)~~, employing a scheme-based grouping technique.

6. (currently amended) The method as in claim 5, wherein a hypothesis is established or specified on the nature of the signal component ~~(SS, NS)~~ and is taken into account in the grouping of the identified features ~~(M1 to Mj)~~.

7. (currently amended) The method as in claim 5 or 6, wherein for the characterization of the signal components ~~(NS, SS)~~, at least the auditory features~~(M1 to Mj)~~ are grouped along the principles of a gestalt theory.

8. (currently amended) The method as in claim 1, wherein the signal components identified as spurious noise components ~~(SS)~~ are suppressed and/or the signal components identified as information signals ~~(NS)~~ or estimated information signals ~~(NS')~~ are amplified.

9. (currently amended) The method as in claim 1, wherein the information signal ~~(NS)~~ or an estimated information signal ~~(NS')~~ is synthesized in the signal processing phase ~~(II)~~ on the basis of the features ~~(M1 to Mj)~~ detected in the signal analysis phase ~~(I)~~.

10. (currently amended) The method as in claim 1, wherein with the aid of an analysis of the harmonic structure in the signal analysis phase ~~(I)~~, different base frequencies of the

signal component of the information signal ~~(NS)~~ or of the estimated information signal ~~(NS')~~ are extracted and, with the aid especially of a loudness or LPC analysis, spectral levels of harmonics of these signal components are defined, and on the basis of the spectral levels and the harmonics an information signal for tonal speech components is synthesized.

11. (currently amended) The method as in claim 1, wherein with the aid of an analysis of the harmonic structure in the signal analysis phase ~~(I)~~, nontonal signal components of the information signal ~~(NS)~~ or of the estimated information signal ~~(NS')~~ are extracted and, with the aid especially of a loudness or LPC analysis, spectral levels of these signal components are defined, and with the aid of a noise generator an information signal for nontonal speech components is synthesized.

12. (currently amended) The method as in claim 10 or 11, wherein the information signal ~~(NS)~~ and/or the estimated information signal ~~(NS')~~ is amplified.

13. (previously presented) Application of the method according to claim 1 for operating a hearing aid.

14. (previously presented) Hearing air operating by the method according to claim 1.

15. (new) A method for the elimination of spurious signal components in an input signal, said method comprising the steps of:

- the characterization, in a signal analysis phase , of signal components of the spurious signal components and of an information signal contained in the input signal , and

- the determination or generation, in a signal processing phase , of the information signal or an estimated information signal on the basis of the characterization obtained in the signal analysis phase , wherein

said characterization of the signal components is performed under utilization of at least auditory-based features determined in the signal analysis phase by employing a scheme-based grouping technique.

16. (new) The method as in claim 15, wherein the characterization of the signal components is performed by evaluating the auditory-based features determined in the signal analysis phase, employing a primitive-grouping method.

17. (new) The method as in claim 16, wherein a hypothesis is established or specified on the nature of the signal component and is taken into account in the grouping of the identified auditory-based features.

18. (new) The method as in claim 16 or 17, wherein for the characterization of the signal components, at least the auditory-based features are grouped along the principles of a gestalt theory.

19. (new) The method as in claim 15, wherein the signal components identified as spurious noise components are suppressed and/or the signal components identified as information signals or estimated information signals are amplified.

20. (new) The method as in claim 15, wherein the information signal or an estimated information signal is

synthesized in the signal processing phase on the basis of the features detected in the signal analysis phase.

21. (new) The method as in claim 15, wherein with the aid of an analysis of the harmonic structure in the signal analysis phase, different base frequencies of the signal component of the information signal or of the estimated information signal are extracted and, with the aid especially of a loudness or LPC analysis, spectral levels of harmonics of these signal components are defined, and on the basis of the spectral levels and the harmonics an information signal for tonal speech components is synthesized.

22. (new) The method as in claim 15, wherein with the aid of an analysis of the harmonic structure in the signal analysis phase, nontonal signal components of the information signal or of the estimated information signal are extracted and, with the aid especially of a loudness or LPC analysis, spectral levels of these signal components are defined, and with the aid of a noise generator an information signal for nontonal speech components is synthesized.

23. (new) The method as in claim 21 or 22, wherein the information signal and/or the estimated information signal is amplified.

24. (new) The method as in claim 15, wherein at least one of the following auditory features are used for the characterization of the signal components: loudness, spectral profile, harmonic structure, common build-up and decay times, coherent amplitude and frequency modulation, coherent phases, interaural runtime and level differences.

25. (new) The method as in claim 15, wherein the auditory

features are determined in a plurality of frequency bands that are different from each other.

26. (new) An application of the method according to claim 15 for operating a hearing aid.

27. (new) A hearing air operating by the method according to claim 15.

28. (new) A method for the elimination of spurious signal components in an input signal, said method comprising the steps of:

- the characterization, in a signal analysis phase , of signal components of the spurious signal components and of an information signal contained in the input signal , and
- the determination or generation, in a signal processing phase, of the information signal or an estimated information signal on the basis of the characterization obtained in the signal analysis phase , wherein

said characterization of the signal components is performed under utilization of at least auditory-based features determined in the signal analysis phase to separate speech signals from non-speech signals in the signal processing phase.

29. (new) An application of the method according to claim 28 for operating a hearing aid.

30. (new) A hearing air operating by the method according to claim 28.